E/CONF.39/H/53
SUMMARY
19 Oct.1962
ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LESS DEVELOPED AREAS

SUMMARY

Agenda Item: H.2

United Arab Republic

ORGANIZATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR NATIONAL PLANNING IN THE U.A.R.

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No. 533
H.2.

ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR NATIONAL PLANNING IN THE UAR

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SUMMARY

The main tasks that can be recognized in national planning are:

1. Data collection on a much wider scale.
2. Project-making, including formulation and appraisal within a national framework.
3. Drafting plans.
4. Final approval of the plan by political bodies.
5. Implementation and execution.
6. Follow-up of the plan progress.

The details of each of these tasks, and consequently the type of organization required, depend upon the actual technique used in planning.

The traditional process of data collection in UAR was carried out by the Central Statistical Department, and by the statistical units in the various ministries. Recently a Central Statistical committee was constructed to realize coordination between these units and to make use of the limited number of statisticians in planning statistical surveys required for planning. However, besides the statistics relating to aggregates and universes, planning and follow-up require other types of numerical data relating to specific projects and economic units.

For the former type of information the existing machinery had only to adapt its activities and their timing to the requirements of planning. Specific data had to be provided by the firms and institutions directly to the Planning Committee. This implied that they should construct their own planning and statistical organisms.

The national plan is drafted by the National Planning Committee. At an early stage two Councils were constructed one for development of production and another for development of services. These councils were given the powers to suggest, formulate and execute development projects. It is now believed more advisable to keep a clear-cut division between planning proper and execution.

The planning activity emerge from the ministries and regions in the form of sectorial or regional programs. The Planning Committee, on the basis of preliminary aggreative studies gives directives as regards the orders of magnitude of such programs. After the elaboration of these programs it studies their coordination and constructs the national

balances and budjets ensuring the fulfillement of the targets in a balanced manner. Lately the Vice-president for planning took on the portfolios, of the treasury in order to facilitate the problems of finance and to refine the relationship between the State budget and the national budget.

The fixation of targets and the final approval of the plan are largely political issues. They are in the hands of the president assisted by the ministrial committee for planning. On the other hand, the general public contribute to the discussion of the plan within the framework of the national organizations pooling the mass powers in the country.

Organization deals with both ownership and management. With ownership, a first step was the law of agrarian reform determining an upper bound to individual land ownership, and putting an end to the feudal system. A second step was the curtailment of foreign domination over important economic activities, especially thebanking infrastructural activities. A third step was the actual nationalization of certain corporation, dealing with general services or with risky but necessary types of production, or again threatening to experience undue monopolistic powers.

Solutions here are based mainly on the requirements of management. They are:

1. Complete nationalization.
2. State participation.
3. State supervision and control.

Other measures were also taken to the effect of putting a ceiling to individual ownership of stocks and shares of various corporations.

Private business is again growing and organized by the corporate laws. Co-operatives are constructed as means of organizing the activities of the unorganized and household sectors. On the other hand democratic organizations are made to the effect of giving the masses more powers to discuss, criticize and supervise the execution of the plan.

With the increasing share of the public sector in developmental activities, greater need is felt for re-organization of the administrative system, and redefinition of job specification and performance. Intensive studies in these fields are expected to end shortly with a system more conformènt to quick development. On the other problems of training, vocational training has received increased attention. Further, special Institutes for planning, statistics, administration and management are assuming the jobs of research and training in these fields.

In spite of the fact that overall planning usually implies more activity at the center, it has provoked even more activity in the regions. The result was the establishment, after the start of the plan, of a new local administration enjoying a high degree of autonomy, especially in the execution of local services projects. It is expected that those bodies will be sooner or later capable of drafting their own regional plans, thus helping the planning authorities in taking the regional needs into consideration in a more concrete form.

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